

Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj

Former President of Mongolia



ELBEGDORJ Tsakhia is a public servant, a freedom fighter, a humanitarian, and a policymaker from Mongolia. In 1990, he was one of the principal leaders of the peaceful Mongolian Democratic Revolution and since then have served Mongolia as Member of Parliament four times, Prime Minister two times, and President for two terms. Born into to a humble traditional nomadic family as the youngest of eight sons, he grew up herding livestock in the high mountains of Western Mongolia. Before joining the public service, he has worked as a machinist, served as a soldier and a journalist in the army newspaper.

As a public servant, Elbegdorj prioritized strengthening the rule of law, fostering social justice, fighting poverty, combating corruption, supporting environmental sustainability, and advancing active participatory democracy. He initiated and led many social, economic, and governance reforms throughout the country. Aiming to consolidate democracy in Asia, he established the Asian Partnership for Democracy initiative within the confines of the Community of Democracies, the largest international organization that drives the global democracy agenda which Mongolia presided from 2011 to 2013. During his tenure as President, he furthered his county's respect and protection for the fundamental human right to life by abolishing the death penalty in Mongolia. In 2018, the International Commission against the Death Penalty accepted Elbegdorj as its new Commissioner.

Now, former President Elbegdorj continues his to work towards bolstering democratic values nationally through the Elbegdorj Institute (EBI), a think tank he founded in 2008. He remains active in addressing the many issues he focused on when he was President. With the support of the public and Non-Governmental organizations, he is working to reduce air and soil pollution in Ulaanbaatar and also at the same time encouraging Mongolian studies globally to provide a better understanding of the Mongolian history and culture with the world. Internationally, he advocates for open dialogue with North Korea and its leaders to achieve peace and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. He recently launched a new initiative to establish a platform for Asian countries to share their best practices and experiences in addressing many of the challenges they face called the Asian Forum on Experience sharing. To ensure successful completion of the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement against climate, Elbegdorj is a Patron of the World Sustainable Development Forum.

Elbegdorj holds Master of Public Administration from Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government (2002) and Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Military Academy of Lviv of former USSR (1988).